
PRIDE IN PORTBURY

PARISH NEWSLETTER NO.10 – JANUARY 2018

INCORPORATING NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH



Happy New Year to all, and we hope you had an enjoyable festive season. Now down to the dieting and other resolutions - ☺

Diary Dates – Community Cafe has started the New Year with a bang as usual. This was also the first time that most of you will have seen the newly refurbished Village Hall floor, more on that below. The next café is on the 3rd of February, plenty of cakes and sarnies on offer as usual. There is to be another Gin festival following the success of the last one. Tickets will be very rare by now but follow the [link](#) to the Village Notice Board above for details.



Neighbourhood Watch – We continue to enjoy a “quiet” time in relation to crime in the Parish. The worst we seem to get at the moment is fly tipping, which is a big nuisance. That’s not to say that worse crime isn’t still around us, there is still a steady trickle of incidents of burglary and theft in Portishead and sometimes in Pill that shows that we need to be ever vigilant.

Traffic speeds – many of you will have seen the traffic order that was raised by North Somerset Council to reduce speed limits in the Village to 20mph. The initial proposal for this came out of the questionnaire responses that we received back in 2015. You made it clear that calming of traffic was a top priority issue. It’s taken a while, with a lot of coaxing and nudging by your Councillors, but now we are getting close. The first scheme, it has to be said, was disappointing in that it didn’t cover all of the worst areas where traffic speeds are excessive. We therefore lobbied hard on your behalf to have the extent changed. It took a petition from a group of residents too to help push North Somerset into extending the scheme, (more money of course). We now await a new traffic order which should include for a 20mph speed limit on each of the routes into the Village. The zone will start from near the school warning sign on the High Street and from approximately the current 30mph signs on Mill Lane and Caswell Lane. There won’t be any physical calming measures at this point, that would require much more money, but it’s a start and hopefully we’ll see some better behaviours from drivers.



I know there are several schools of thought on this issue, and some residents have argued against the use of a 20mph zone, that said, the overarching national picture (RoSPA) shows that traffic speeds are reduced when a 20mph zone is in place. It is also a matter of record that the chances of a person surviving a crash increases from 10% to 90% when speed reduces from 40mph to 20mph. Greater reductions in speed are realised when physical measures go along with it. There is some evidence from Bath (BANES) that 20mph zones have made things worse, but there is no analysis to suggest why this has happened.

May I also make a plea at this stage for more help with monitoring this situation. We already have a speed measurement gun in the Village and this can be a big deterrent if we use it merely once a week to check car speed. We haven’t any volunteers at the moment to form a speedwatch group. If anyone is prepared to give up an hour a month to join a team, then please let us know and we’ll see if we can get the speedwatch moving again. North Somerset Council have pledged that if traffic speeds continue to be too high after the zone is implemented then they will consider further physical measures. But we will need to prove this.



Budget and precept issues – it's the time of year when we start to thinking of our annual budget, and the amount we request to be added into our rates. Last year we did increase our precept by about £5 per household, and this extra money is helping us to spend more funds on keeping the Village tidy. The retirement of Brian Weeks, our lengthsman, has however set us back as he was very cost effective, being local and knowing the patch like the back of his hand. Replacement of his service on a like for like basis would cost significantly more money each year.



We are therefore reviewing how to provide this service to get best value for money. At the same time, we are finding that to keep on top of everything that affects our Parish is taking more time than we have budgeted to spend. This means that quite a lot of work falls upon your Councillors, and in particular upon your Chair (Me). In order to continue giving you the service that we should will therefore require more hours from our Administrator. This makes the job of an employed Parish Clerk much more worthwhile and we have therefore decided to move progressively towards direct employment of a Clerk. To begin with we believe that this will require a part time post of about 15 hours a week. The budget will be examined during January to see what will be needed in terms of precept to fund this. By the Spring therefore we may be advertising this post and so if anyone has any interest in this please watch out. The terms of employment will include for holidays and pension. Watch this space.



Defibrillator - after a long time in the fund raising and planning we can now report that a defibrillator has been installed at the Priory Inn. Thanks are due to the Lions of Portishead for providing not only half of the funding for this, but also coordinating and overseeing the installation. The Parish Council provided the remaining half of the funding which included a contribution of £500 from Bristol Port Company. Thanks are also due to Pete Cooke for sticking with this and liaising with the Portishead Lions ensuring that the unit got installed and is now being looked after. Should anyone be called upon to use this, one should find that the instructions are self-explanatory. Training sessions in the Village Hall may be organised at some time in the near future.



Mike Phipps – Chairman Portbury Parish Council

And read on for Village Hall News from Sharon

The Village Hall – the Hall is now open after the Xmas break and a short interruption for refurbishment of the floor and lights. The floor surface looks marvellous and almost like new again and has made a real difference to how the place feels. The lighting has also been upgraded now and the new LED's give a lovely soft but bright appearance to the space. Thanks are due to the BIFFA award scheme for this. Our grant of £10588 will make a big difference and means that the Club can conserve its funds for continuing with the regular maintenance needs of our lovely building.



What a result !!!!!

It's not too soon to let you know about the annual beer and cider festival. This will be on the 19th of May. Hopefully this will be as well supported as ever. If you wish to sponsor a barrel this will be £50 to include 2 tickets and advertising of your business or service. Sometimes families take a sponsorship as a further means of supporting the Club even if they are not regular users. Tickets will go on sale on the 1st of March and will cost £10 with priority being given to members and volunteers.



At our AGM in November we recorded a surplus for our trading year of £3900, which was a remarkable result given that we had spent large sums of money on external pointing and other necessary maintenance jobs. This means that after the refurbishment of the Hall floor and lights we can still consider further improvements to keep our building in good shape. There has been an increase in family membership this year, it's great to see new faces enjoying what the club has to offer. Membership forms can be downloaded here, or picked up from the club on a Friday or Sunday evening.

As usual I must give a big thank you to all the volunteers who keep the Hall going. It takes a lot of effort, especially at Christmas with quite a few events to cover. We are always looking for new members to come and help us on the Committee. If you have a little time and energy to put back into the community then please do get involved.

Sharon Worthy – Chair of the Village Hall and Social Club

And Church news from Ann

St Mary's Church – The Christmas festivities were so good this year, with our newly restored organ being played by Matt, our Portbury musician and member of the church. We had more people at the carol service than ever before and the choir really added to the event. On Christmas day a real Star turned up – mum and dad will know who we are talking about! It was a great joy.



Life at the church continues to diversify, with Tuesdays becoming very busy: We see the start of our watercolour art classes on Tuesday afternoons from 1.30 to 4.30, first session on 12 February. This is open to all, beginners and experienced artists. Terms will follow school term timetables.

Our [toddler group](#) continues to grow, again open to all: from babies to school age and where mums and dads meet for coffee and a chat. We meet on Tuesday mornings from 9 to 11.15am, so you can drop off children at school next door and come on in.

The grant work we told you about in the last newsletter is progressing well, but we need to do some serious fundraising to top up the grant. If anybody would like to help with fundraising or has any ideas or contacts for concerts, please contact us.

In future, we will be putting details of our church services on the [Village Noticeboard](#) as well as on the noticeboard outside the church lychgate.

AND WATCH OUT FOR PALM SUNDAY SERVICE ON THE 25 MARCH! This year we are holding a special service on the village green, complete with real donkey. There will be other local churches joining us and you are all warmly welcome.



For further information please contact Ann Longstaff, Churchwarden on 07552 629928.

Ann Longstaff – ChurchWarden

Councillor Vacancies – a final word from your Parish Council. We are still in urgent need of more Councillors to contribute to running of the Council. We are a team of only 4, and need some fresh blood to put effort into our community. Anyone who has an interest in contributing to the running and development of the Village would be welcome as a Councillor.



No experience is needed, nor is the role very onerous, but we do expect you to read up before a meeting and contribute to discussion.



Please contact our office if you are at all interested in a position or have other queries you wish to put to us.

[Portbury Parish Council@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:Portbury_Parish_Council@hotmail.co.uk) or telephone 815012

MAP –15th January 2018